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Message Text

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47
ACTION AF-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00

PA-01 RSC-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 PM-03 NSC-05 SS-15

SAM-01 L-02 IO-10 /072 W
---------- 014113
R 101709Z DEC 74
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6424
INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY BLANTYRE
AMCONSUL LOURENCO MARQUES
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI

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CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, RH, SF
SUBJECT: RHODESIA: RHODESIANS MISINTERPRET AFRICAN DEMANDS AT LUSAKA

1. LONDON TIMES, FOR DECEMBER 10, HAS ARTICLE DATED PREVIOUS DAY, DATELINED CAPE TOWN, FROM TIMES CORRESPONDENT MICHAEL KNIPE, SAYING, "THERE ARE INDICATIONS THAT THE AFRICAN POSITION ON MAJORITY RULE IN RHODESIA MAY HAVE BEEN MISINTERPRETED BY IAN SMITH'S DELEGATION DURING RECENT CONSTITUTIONAL DISCUSSIONS IN LUSAKA." ARTICLE GOES ON TO SAY THAT AFRICAN POSITION, ACCORDING TO SOURCES IN LUSAKA, WAS THAT THERE SHOULD BE AGREEMENT ON A TIMETABLE FOR PROGRESSIVE MAJORITY RULE PRIOR TO A CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE, WHICH CONFLICTS WITH STATEMENT ISSUED BY SMITH'S OFFICE IN SALISBURY ON DECEMBER 7,
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CLAIMING AFRICANS DEMANDED AS A PREREQUISITE ACCEPTANCE

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OF IMMEDIATE MAJORITY RULE. BOTH ZANU AND ZAPU LEADERS, ACCORDING TO TIMES, WERE AGREEABLE TO THE IDEA OF MAJORITY RULE BEING INTRODUCED GRADUALLY SO LONG AS IT WAS IN ACCORDANCE WITH A MUTUALLY AGREEABLE TIMETABLE.

2. SAME ARTICLE SAYS AFRICAN NATIONALIST SOURCES CLAIM SMITH OFFER OF ONLY A MARGINAL INCREASE IN BLACK REPRESENTATION IN PARLIAMENT FAR SHORT OF PARITY WITH THE WHITES OFFERED LITTLE ENCOURAGEMENT TO THE AFRICANS TO SETTLE. AGAIN, ACCORDING TO AFRICAN SOURCES, TIMES SAYS SMITH REFUSED TO SHARE CONTROL OF THE POLICE AND THE ARMY, AND TURNED DOWN THE IDEA THAT BLACKS SHOULD HAVE MAJORITY REPRESENTATION AT ANY CONSTITUTIONAL CONFERENCE. SINCE AFRICAN NATIONALISTS WILL NEVER ACCEPT ANYTHING LESS THAN AN EVENTUAL MAJORITY RULE, THE ONLY POINT OF HOLDING THE NEGOTIATIONS AT ALL IS TO ESTABLISH WHAT LENGTH OF TIME IT WOULD BE AGREEABLE FOR THAT TO COME ABOUT.

3. HEAD OF RHODESIAN DEPARTMENT AT FCO SAYS THAT, AS OF NOON LOCAL TIME DECEMBER 10, FOREIGN OFFICE STILL HAD NOT HAD ANY AUTHORITATIVE REPORT OF BREAKDOWN OF NEGOTIATIONS. SAME SOURCE SPECULATED THAT KNIPE ARTICLE MIGHT WELL HAVE COME FROM ZAMBIANS OR SOUTH AFRICANS, BOTH OF WHOM ARE ANXIOUS TO MAINTAIN MOMENTUM AND GET NEGOTIATIONS GOING AGAIN.

SPIERS

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